

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated March 12, 2003, the Examiner rejects claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,421,669 to Gilmour et al. in view of Maarek, Yoelle, "Automatic Organizing of Bookmarks per Contents," 5/10/96, pages 1-17. The rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested in view of the following.

Claims 23-38 have been added. These new claims correspond generally to originally filed claims 2-17. No new matter has been added.

With respect to claims 2-17, the Examiner indicates that Gilmour et al. discloses a method of assigning a confidence level value to content, and automatically including content within an entity profile if the confidence level assigned to the content exceeds a threshold. The Examiner further indicates that Gilmour et al. does not teach maintaining an affinity variable, but that Maarek teaches a bookmark application using lexicon affinities. Still further, the Examiner indicates that it would have been obvious to combine the knowledge profile teachings of Gilmour to include the use of the affinity variable as taught by Maarek.

Gilmour et al. discusses a method for constructing a user knowledge profile. Words or phrases are extracted from electronic documents associated with a user, such as e-mails from or to a user. Coupling of a term to a user is measured and reflected in a "confidence level." If the confidence level reaches a certain threshold, the term may be added to a user knowledge profile.

Maarek discusses methods for organization of bookmarks as used in Internet browser programs to allow quick linking to a particular Web page of interest. Maarek includes a

discussion of the use of lexicon affinities for document clustering. As such, Maarek is discusses document organization, and is not directed to the same subject matter as the present invention, such as, for example, a method of profiling users of a document system.

The applicant's invention as claimed includes assigning topics to documents or associating documents with topics, and maintaining an affinity variable for a user for each of the topics assigned to the a document associated with a user. For example, in some embodiments, a topic generation program can be used to identify topics for documents, or to compute the relatedness of a topic to a document. Furthermore, software can be used that gathers information associating users with documents, such as, for example, by determining users who author, manipulate, perform activities on, or are otherwise associated with documents. Collected or determined information is used in maintaining an affinity variable that can, in some embodiments, associate users with topics.

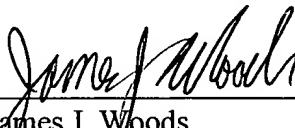
As described above, the method in Gilmour et al. includes extracting terms from electronic documents. Gilmour does not disclose or suggest assigning or associating topics with documents and maintaining an affinity variable for a user for each of the topics. Maarek discusses the use of lexicon affinities for document clustering, but does not disclose or suggest, whether alone or in combination with Gilmour et al, maintaining an affinity variable as claimed by the applicant. In addition, Gilmour et al. is concerned with creating user profiles, while Maarek is concerned with organization of bookmarking, and the Examiner has failed to show any motivation in the prior art to combine the teachings of the references.

For at least the above reasons, neither Gilmour et. al. or Maarek et al., alone or in combination, teaches or suggests, as set forth in applicants claims 1, 18, and 22, assigning topics to documents or associating documents with topics, and maintaining an affinity variable for a user for each of the topics assigned to a document associated with a user. Therefore, claims 1, 18, and 22 are patentable over the cited art. Furthermore, claims 2-17 and 19-21, which depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 18, are also patentable over the cited art. Additionally, newly added claims 23-38, which depend, either directly or indirectly from claim 22, are also patentable over the cited references.

For all of the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection, and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully solicited. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

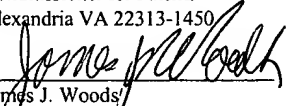
Respectfully submitted,

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7/14/03
Date